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prairie dog population?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: If a landowner acts irresponsibly and not contain the prairie dog population, I would...I would think there should be a way to assess the negligence of a particular property owner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Smith, you have probably a general knowledge and understanding about prairie dogs and where they come from, don't you?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now, is it being alleged by those who support this bill that we're talking about that the individual who has prairie dogs that may encroach on somebody else's property brought those prairie dogs to his or her property? That's not being alleged, is it?

SENATOR SMITH: I haven't heard it in this discussion. I know that there are some activists out there who would go to pretty extreme...(laugh) would take pretty extreme action to restore some of those prairie dog populations and I introduced some legislation myself that addressed that a couple years ago.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But that's not what this bill is addressing, is it?

SENATOR SMITH: No, this is more of a management practice issue and it's probably even more reasonable than the legislation I introduced.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you agree that wild animals belong to the state?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: I can't say that I entirely agree with that.